

Nevada HIT AND HIE Assessment

Fact Sheet

Overview

The State of Nevada, through the Office of Health Information Technology (OHIT) and the Nevada Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), has initiated planning for Health Information Technology (HIT) and Health Information Exchange (HIE) efforts, which are being driven by The Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act. The HITECH Act was enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). OHIT has initiated planning for the development of State-level Strategic and Operational plans for HIE and related HIT adoption. In addition, the DHCFP has initiated similar planning for developing a State Medicaid HIT Plan, including a plan for providing payments to Medicaid providers for implementing, adopting, and using Electronic Health Records (EHRs) according to meaningful use of EHRs.

A first step to developing both plans is to assess the current uses of HIT and HIE. This HIT and HIE assessment is an important component in understanding how providers and stakeholders are already using EHRs and exchanging the information for treatment, public health and quality improvement, and what support and resources will be required to advance the adoption of HIT and HIE statewide.

<p>What is the purpose of the HIT and HIE Assessment and what are the anticipated benefits?</p>	<p>The purpose of the assessment is to provide an “As-Is” baseline of HIT and HIE efforts and resources in the State of Nevada for strategic planning at the State-level and planning for the Medicaid EHR Incentive Payment Program. The assessment will provide the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To provide an understanding of what resources or technical assistance is needed by the provider community for the implementation, adoption, and meaningful use of EHRs as well as use of HIE among disparate providers, organizations, and public agencies,• To assist with planning for ongoing communications and outreach with the provider community and other stakeholders for current and planned HIT and HIE adoption,• To gauge barriers to adoption of HIT and HIE by providers,• To help support development and funding for HIT and HIE infrastructure across the State,• To identify current HIE and HIT resources in Nevada that can be expanded or leveraged,• To gain an understanding of existing collaborative efforts for information exchange, and• To identify resources and support providers and other stakeholders will need to advance HIE and HIT.
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<p>How will the HIT and HIE Assessment be conducted?</p>	<p>The State has contracted with the consulting firm Public Knowledge LLC to conduct the HIT and HIE Assessment. The assessment will include two major components:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research and Documentation of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and planned HIT and HIE efforts at the State, regional, and organizational levels, • Known best practices for HIT and HIE integration and models in other states, • Stakeholders and workgroups that are central to planning and implementing HIT and HIE that meets national standards, and • Barriers to adoption of both HIT and HIE. 2. Utilize Interviews, Focus Groups and Surveys to determine stakeholder involvement in current HIT and HIE efforts and to assess the readiness of healthcare providers to adopt HIT and HIE.
<p>What kind of information will be gathered during the HIT and HIE Assessment?</p>	<p>The following represents some information and data anticipated to be gathered as part of the assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current and planned used of HIT by providers, • Current use and planned HIE implementation (E-prescribing, eligibility, clinical, care management), • Use of existing HIE networks or planned use of newly developing networks, • Timing of future HIT and HIE implementation and adoption rates, • Vendor products or third parties providing HIT and HIE solutions, • Security, identity and access management systems or products, • Identification of HIT and HIE status by Medicaid and non-Medicaid providers, • Barriers to HIT and HIE adoption, • Geographical distribution of providers using HIT and HIE, • Strengths and weakness of existing HIT and HIE activities, • Existing resources that can be leveraged to expand HIT and HIE adoption, and • Resources, technical assistance, and support providers need in order to implement HIT and HIE. <p>Based on the information obtained through the scan, quantitative and qualitative analysis will be conducted.</p>

<p>How will stakeholders be involved in the HIT and HIE Assessment?</p>	<p>A broad range of providers will be asked to complete online surveys. Surveys can be provided through other means, if needed.</p> <p>In addition, other stakeholders that are champions of HIT and HIE will be requested to participate in interviews and/or focus groups.</p> <p>Questionnaires for conducting the interviews and focus groups and two web-based surveys – one for practitioners and one for hospitals –have already been developed. The surveys, focus groups, and interviews will be conducted during May and June of 2010.</p>
<p>How will the information gathered during the HIT and HIE Assessment?</p>	<p>The information gathered during the assessment will be used to develop a final report to the State that includes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An inventory of healthcare providers’ current and planned HIT and HIE efforts, including systems, solutions, implementation timeframes and status. 2. A comprehensive description of the current HIT and HIE landscape in Nevada and the baseline level of readiness for adoption, including barriers providers may have to adopting HIT. 3. Recommendations for appropriate next steps in developing the Strategic Plan for HIE and the State Medicaid HIT Plan. <p>Information collected during the scan will also be used to assist with planning for ongoing communications and outreach with the provider community and to help support development and funding for HIT and HIE infrastructure across the State.</p>
<p>More information?</p>	<p>Visit the Nevada HIE and HIT Internet site: http://dhhs.nv.gov/Hit.htm. Or, send an email to nevadahit@dncfp.nv.gov.</p>